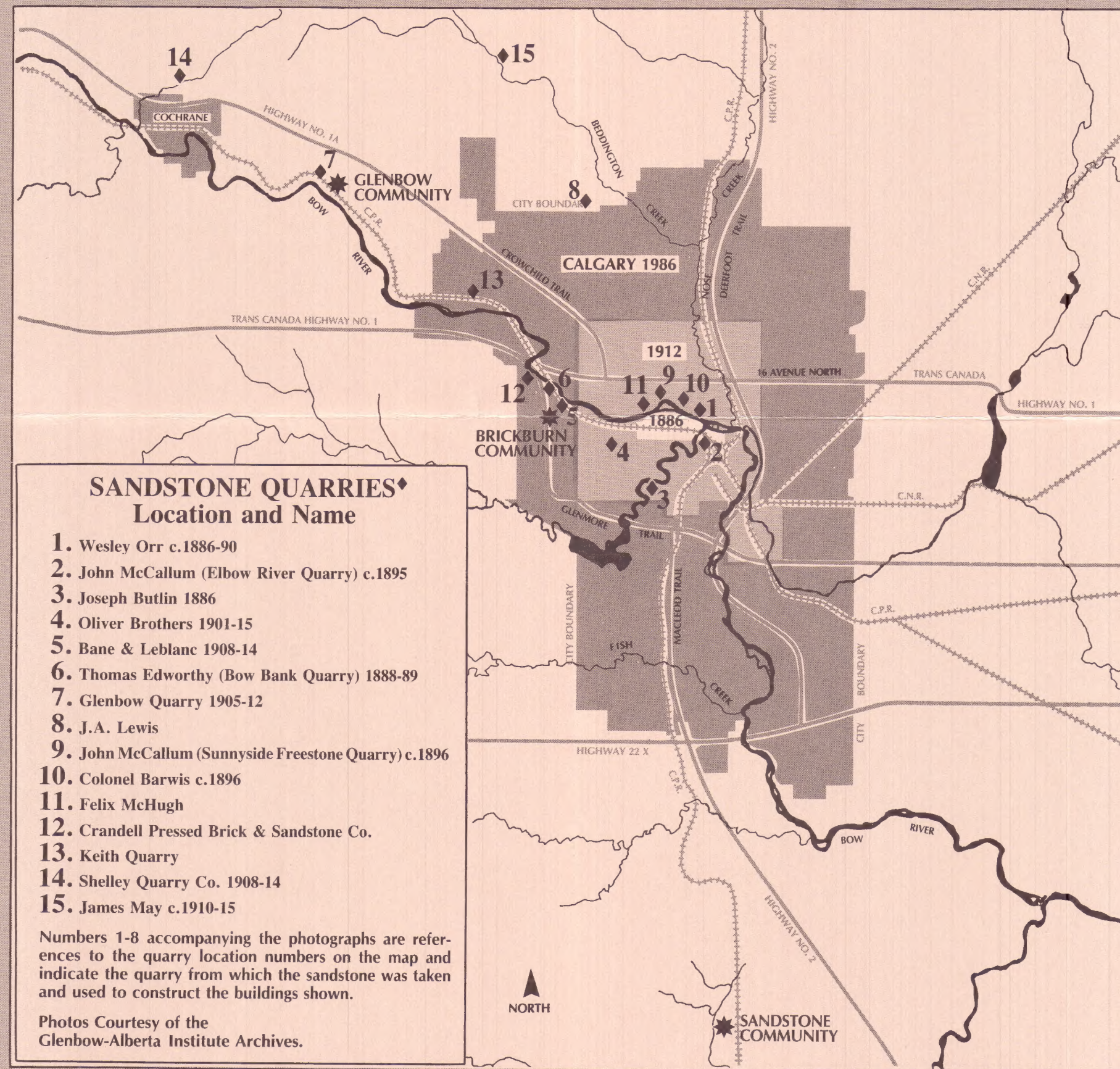
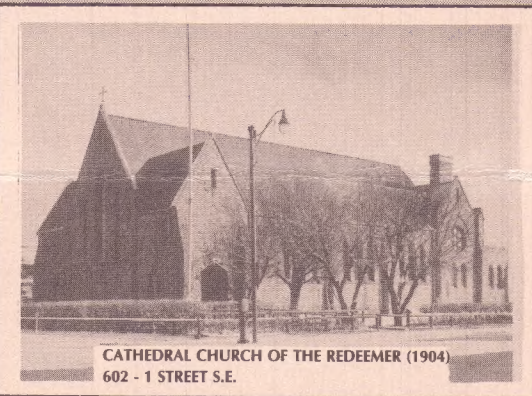
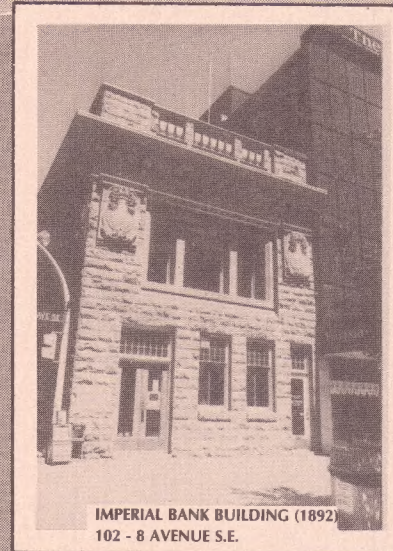


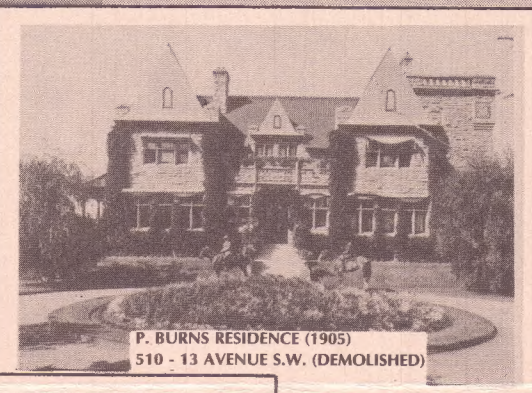
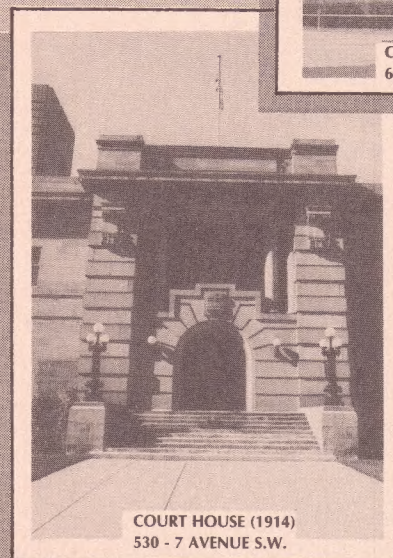
# SANDSTONE IN CALGARY QUARRIES & BUILDINGS



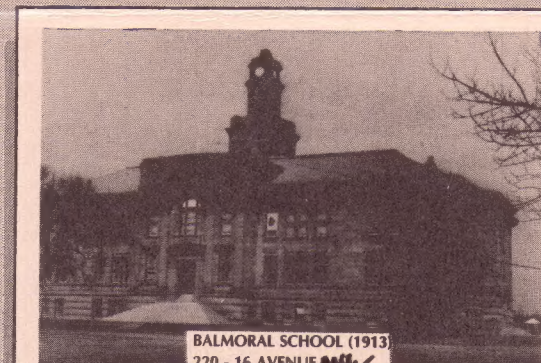
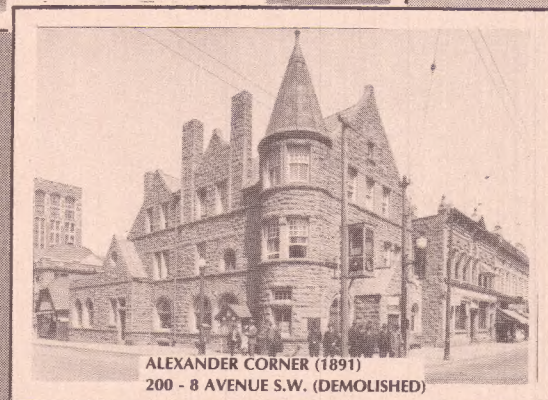
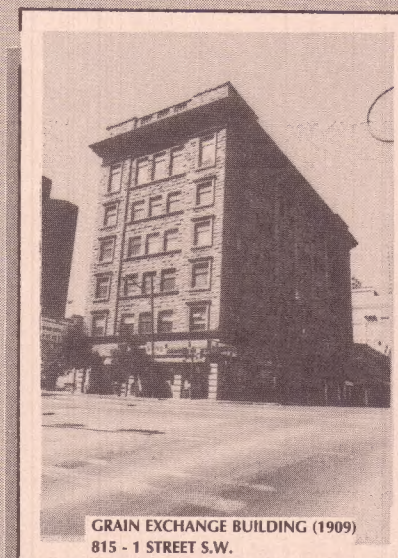
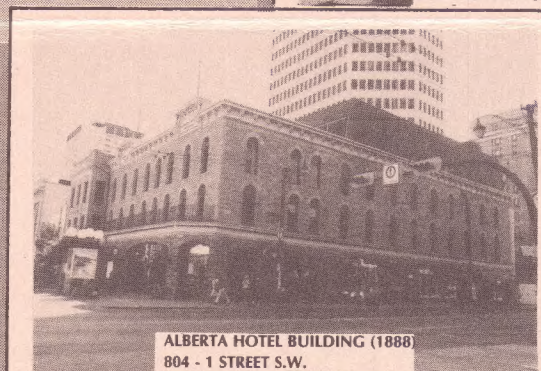
## 8 J.A. LEWIS



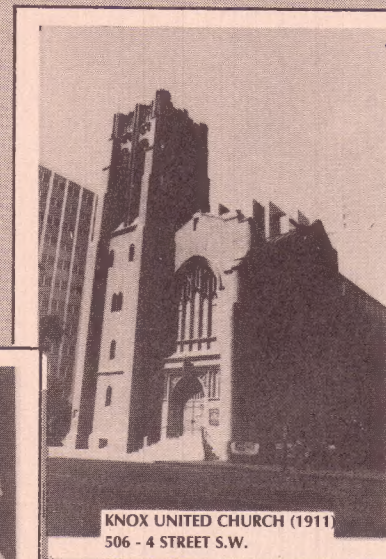
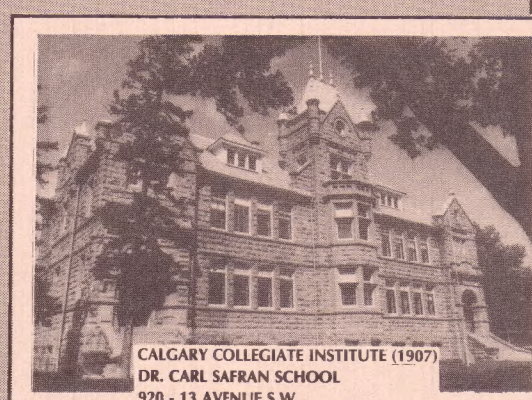
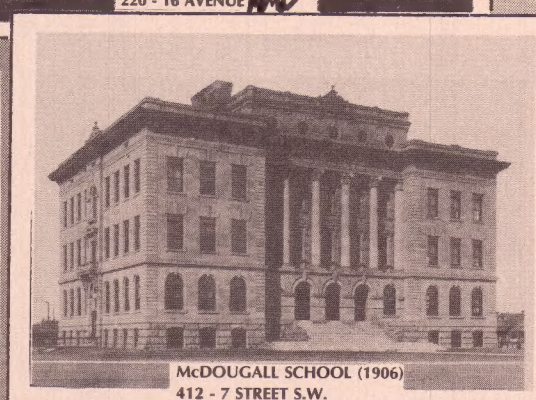
## 7 GLENBOW QUARRY



## 6 THOMAS EDWORTHY



## 5 BANE & LEBLANC



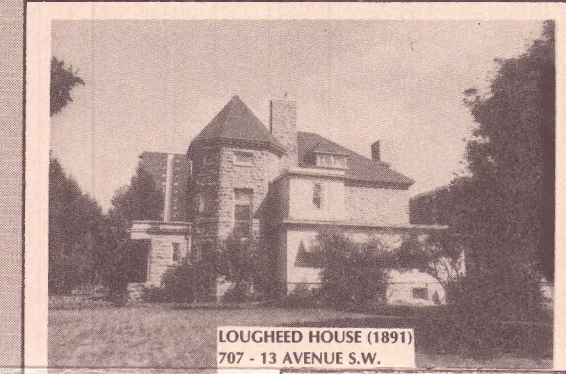
## 1 WESLEY ORR



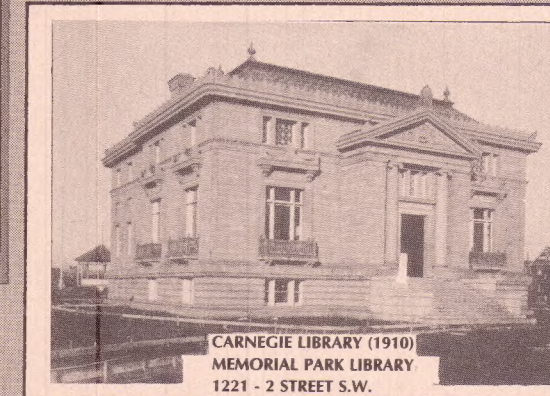
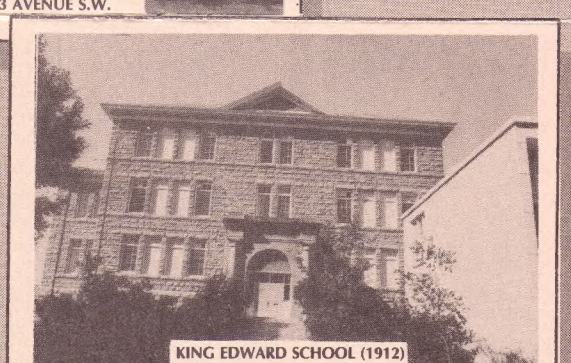
## 2 ELBOW RIVER



## 3 JOSEPH BUTLIN



## 4 OLIVER BROTHERS



SANDSTONE CITY SANDSTONE CITY





## The City

November 7, 1886 marked the beginning of Calgary's "Sandstone Era". On this date, the small town was struck with a devastating fire which consumed much of the main street. Determined Calgarians rebuilt their town in sandstone, a more fireproof material.

Easily quarried and carved, this native stone would transform the pioneer settlement to an urban centre known as the "Sandstone City of the West". Prior to 1900, sandstone construction focused on commercial buildings. The solid and substantial appearance of the golden stone gave Calgary's streets an aura of prosperity which in turn attracted business and new residents.

From 1906 to 1913, the town experienced phenomenal growth. Sandstone was now primarily used in large public buildings, schools, churches and several private residences.

At the peak of activity small communities for workers and their families were established near the outlying quarries at Brickburn, Glenbow and Sandstone.\*



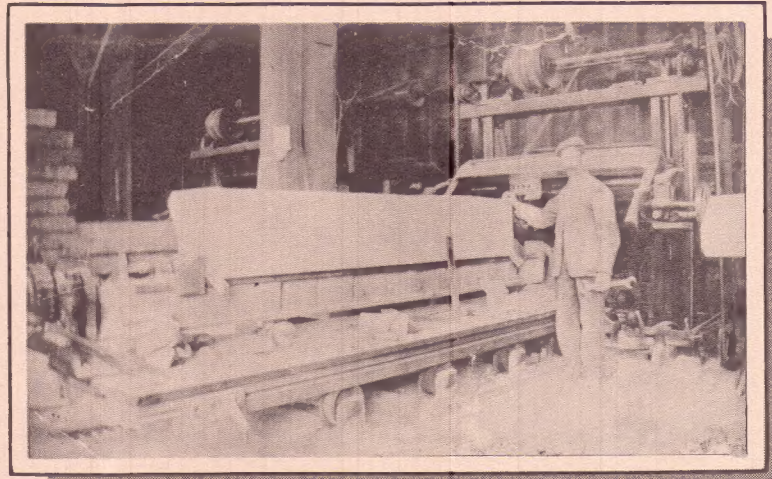
## The Industry

During the "Sandstone Era", fifteen quarries operated in and around Calgary. Wesley Orr opened the first quarry in 1886. Other quarriers soon followed, carving the stone from rich seams exposed along the Bow and Elbow Rivers.

Calgary's largest and longest running quarry was the Bankview Quarry, operated by William Oliver from 1902 until 1915. This major quarry supplied stone to many of Calgary's landmark buildings, and was itself a landmark until being filled in for road construction.

Initially, the quarries were located close to town, but by 1910 most were overrun by the rapidly expanding suburbs. With improved rail lines, the industry relocated from the city to sites further west along the Bow River.

Rising costs for stone carving, the failure of the quarries to supply desirable stone, and competition from other building materials led to the abandonment of the quarries. With the outbreak of World War I, the "Sandstone Era" came to an end.



## The Art

Building the "Sandstone City" involved hundreds of workers. By 1890, over half of the city's skilled tradesmen were stonecutters or masons. Many were Scots and came from generations of stoneworking experience.

There were three phases of stoneworking: quarrying, cutting, and finishing. It was the final phase that illustrated the true art of the industry. Skilled artisans, with their traditional tools of mallet and chisel, adorned the city's buildings with delicate details in geometric and floral motifs.

Today almost all of the master craftsmen who produced Calgary's sandstone heritage are gone. But the pride in their skill and tradition lives on in Calgary, the "Sandstone City".